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The Intelligencer

WHEELING, MARCH 4, 1895.

The Fifty-third Congress.
When the impartial historian comes to write of the Fifty-third Congress he will be forced to say that it was a revelation of superlative incompetency. It went in loaded with promises of good things to be done for the people. It goes out after having turned topsyturvy the business conditions of the country, having taken trade from tradesmen and wages from wage-earners and done little for which it can be praised.

Those who blew tin horns and were roosters in their hats over the election of this Congress and all that went with it have by thousands turned on the responsible party and, so far as their votes could reach in that election, driven it out of power. Deceived and maddened, the people have overwhelmed with their ballots the party which gave them such a Congress and such a policy.

The Fifty-third Congress showed the utter incapacity of the Democratic party to deal in a business-like way with business questions. It deranged business with its tariff law made in foreign interests, and it was not equal to the task of maturing any financial legislation to relieve the treasury and the people. In short it was the most worthless and the most hurtful Congress in the history of the country, and by its acts it drove the people to give its party the worst drubbing ever given to any party in this country.

It is significant that the record of the Fifty-third Congress is so bad that Democrats have about ceased to make excuses for it. It goes into history exonerated by a deluded and crippled people. The harm it has done cannot be undone in a day.

Mr. William L. Wilson has learned something since the passage of his tariff bill. Among other things he has learned that the bounty claim of the sugar producers rests on common honesty. Now he is willing to pay. Before he could not see it in that light.

Hawaii.
Instead of losing their heads the chiefs of the Hawaiian conspiracy will merely have to undergo an imprisonment of thirty-five years and pay \$10,000 each. As there are no infants among the offenders, they will all be ripe by the time they emerge from the prison's gloom.

The Hawaiian government has reached a wise conclusion which places it well before the world. It shows that there is no thirst for blood, only a determination to protect the government against possible overthrow by treasonable plots.

As for the ex-queen, she gets off easily with five years' imprisonment in her own house. She has lacked the philosophy to submit to the inevitable and has devoted her time to an effort to make serious trouble. In her case, too, the government is lenient. This is the best course to pursue if she and her advisers can be kept well in hand. If they will not improve the opportunity to behave themselves we may be sure that they will be made to feel that they are dealing with a real government ready to be firm as well as element.

The little country is doing very well under adverse circumstances. The evident object of those in power is to hold things level until the islands may come in, as they will, as part of the great American household.

PUBLIC OPINION, that admirable publication which gleams the world of thought for busy people, has outgrown Washington and will hereafter make its home in New York. Public Opinion has been a great success in spite of repeated failures on a similar line.

A Billion Dollar Country.
The Fifty-third Congress, which is to be known as the last of the Democratic Congresses, has made the largest aggregate of appropriations in our history. It throws in the shade the "billion dollar Congress" which furnished so many lurid texts for Democratic writers and stumpers.

These same persons will not jump on this Congress for its large appropriations, for now the boat is on the other leg. When they were doing their wild caving they were reminded by Republicans that this is a billion dollar country, but that thought did not impress them then as it will now.

The fact is that it takes a great deal of money to run this great country, and

If large appropriations be made on the basis of the public requirements followed by honest handling in disbursement, the people do not complain.

This was just as true when the Democrats were storming about the "billion dollar" Republican Congress as it is now, but they can probably appreciate the point better now than they could then.

West Virginia.
The enterprising Cleveland Leader has the great advantage of knowing what it is talking about. Hear it for our cause:

The reputed father of the tariff law which is threatening down the ages, as the Cleveland Leader says, is the Wilson bill, is well placed for two years, but if anybody imagines that at the end of that time West Virginia will have something good for him again in public life he is bound to be surprised. West Virginia has become a Republican, protective-tariff state, once for all.

West Virginia will continue to wish Brother Wilson well, but she will not ask him to render any more public services. He does not think with West Virginia on matters of great pith and moment. There are those who do and West Virginia will politely request them to do the work and bear the honors.

It is very pleasing to have our friends elsewhere realize the important fact that after all the hard work done by West Virginia Republicans "West Virginia has become a Republican, protective-tariff state once for all."

This sizes up the situation precisely as it is and as everybody in the state knows it to be. We shall have a campaign in 1896, and we shall come out of it as gloriously as we did in 1894. We shall sweep the platter clean in that year of grace.

By its effort to keep the street crossings clean the board of public works is winning golden opinions.

Why They Go Out.

Many men will step out of Congress to-day to return no more forever. They and the policy they represent have been weighed and found wanting. They promised bread and gave a stone. The people trusted them and were deceived. There is much food for reflection in the undoing of these men. Some of them wanted to do right but their party would not let them. Others of them were entirely willing to let the party leaders do all the thinking.

The thinking was on lines opposed to the general welfare. The conclusion has produced results bad for the country. So the country turned on its tormentors and bundled them out. It may be their lot to wander in the wilderness for forty years. They have no chance to get back in the near future. The people of this country want a chance to live on the American level. They have had a taste of something else and do not like it. The present generation of American wage-earners will be very slow to ask again at the polls for foreign wages.

The Financial Chronicle, speaking of the Fifty-third Congress, remarks: "The feeling has been that its power for evil-doing is circumscribed, being held within narrow limits, inasmuch as the 4th of March closes its work." A legislative body which well deserves this parting kick is not something to be remembered with overflowing satisfaction.

The czar was so displeased with the sentiments uttered by Madame Modjeska that he will not allow her to appear in a Russian theatre. But when she comes back to her adopted land it will all be made up to her by the rush to see the woman martyr. That is the way to even up with the autocrat of all the Russias.

In Washington yesterday was Saturday by construction. The statesmen had fritted away so many days that they had to find one somewhere to enable them to get through. If they had been a little more provident of their time they would not have been forced to turn Sunday into Saturday.

The year's Democratic politics in Ohio will probably be based on Sorg for governor and Brice or McLean for senator. So that there will be money enough in sight to make a diversion at least. Money is the first consideration.

BEGINNING with to-day West Virginia will be represented in Congress by five Republicans and one Democrat, a situation in which the Republicans of this state take great pride. In due time we shall make the delegation solid.

SOUTHERN Oscar Wilde should be above the commonplace libel suit. He should leave that sort of thing to dollar-hunters. Oscar has in him so much sweetness and light that he should be above the vulgar coin of the realm.

POSTMASTER GENERAL Wilson has an opportunity to popularize his administration at the outset by putting more mucilage on the backs of the new postage stamps.

SHALL we hear any more from our Democratic friends about a "billion-dollar Congress?" Will they sing the old songs now and let us hear how they go?

These international marriages are very discouraging to our native talent. They will look better when rich foreign girls begin to wed poor Americans.

It goes hard, Castellane, but here goes—accept congratulations. A good girl with a barrel isn't found every day.

EVEN President Cleveland will feel a sense of relief when he no longer has a Democratic Congress on his hands.

SHE is not too heavily oppressed with her lenden duties to give a passing thought to her Easter bonnet.

Democratic Prophecies That Failed.

One of the remarkable features of recent political campaigns has been the tin plate discussion, in which on one side it has been insisted that such a thing as American tin plate never did exist and probably never would, while on the other the declarations were out-

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report:

Royal Baking Powder
ABSOLUTELY PURE

phatic to the effect that tin plate was being successfully and extensively manufactured in several places in the United States. There is no campaign on just now, so this is a good time to call attention to a report by our consul at Cardiff, South Wales, a report in which he says that the tin plate industry in that country—once the only source of supply—is about gone. The consul quotes a Welsh newspaper, which says:

"The American tin plate works, which it was thought would have to stop, are going on as vigorously as ever, competing for and often securing orders which came to this country. Their position has actually improved recently, inasmuch as they have obtained a reduction in wages of about 30 per cent, while in this country the strong effort made in the same direction has up to the present time proved futile, except in a few isolated cases. Probably the most striking feature of the year's trading has been the seriously diminished call for terms plates from the United States, the native works being equal to supplying almost the whole of that important trade."

Such testimony as this seems to indicate at least that American tin plate is not wholly a creation of the imagination, and to point to an ultimate verdict favorable to American resources.

A TEACHER'S VIEWS

On the School Book Question and the Method of Its Settlement—The Demagogic Talk About a "Monopoly" Does Not Meet With Favor.

To the Editor of the Intelligencer.

Sir:—I watched the proceedings of the legislature with a great deal of interest and am free to say that to all appearances it was a business body in every respect. The aim seemed to be to make a record that would cause their constituents to believe that they were doing everything in their power to legislate for the good of the entire people. This is all good, as far as it goes, but there was one bill passed, to which I would call attention, i. e., the school book bill. The writer would have had something to say concerning this before the bill was passed, had it not been from the fact that he feared that he would have been pounced upon as being a friend of the "great monopoly," the American Book Company, as all others were who in any way shape, manner or form, in word, deed, look or thought did or said against the bill, or favored retaining the majority of the books already in our schools and thus save the expense of a change. But now the work is done the bill is passed, and I have this to say of it and of the means used to pass it:

It looked to a careful reader of the proceedings as if the earnest advocates of the extreme measure making a sweeping change in the text books were more anxious to strike a blow at the "big monopoly" than they were to get better books for the people. For instance, the idea of Hyde's language lessons taking the place of Harvey's grammar is simply ridiculous to those who have made a study of the two books. If the teacher is what he or she should be, perhaps it is not very important what the text book is, but it is a "condition, not a theory," that confronts us. The teachers are not what they should be, nor can we expect them to be thus until they are paid salaries that will enable them to devote themselves entirely to the work. Well, our teachers have been taught in Harvey's grammar, and they can surely teach it to others much better than they can teach a new book, and especially one not so good as the one in use. Hyde's lessons are scarcely an introduction to Harvey's revised grammar, and unless technical grammar is dropped entirely from the course our boys and girls must be permitted to study a work on the subject. There may be better grammars than Harvey's revised, (the writer has seen but few better) but we have this book, and why go to the expense of a change?

Brook's mental arithmetic is a good work, but it was prepared expressly for high and normal school work; in fact, it is the outgrowth of the methods of teaching the subject in the Pennsylvania State Normal School at Millersville. The writer has taught from the book and knows whereof he speaks.

The change in histories was imperative, demanded, and the legislature did well in doing as it did.

And now as to the "monopoly." Do not our legislators know that these books were first adopted when they were published by Wilson & Hinkle and later by Van Antwerp, Bragg & Co., long before the American Book Company was formed? Do they not know also that for years West Virginia has been getting school books much cheaper than many other states, if not cheaper than any other state? A reliable merchant living in the state of Ohio, just across the river from our state, told the writer about ten years ago that when he was short of books at one time he came across the river to our state, purchased the books at our retail price, and made a greater per cent on his investment than when he bought the same books at the wholesale price they paid for them in Ohio. The reason of this was that they had what was called township adoption and we state adoption. My theory is to get the best books for as reasonable prices as possible, even if they are purchased from the "grasping monopoly" (7), the American Book Company.

Another thing, Mr. Editor: I see, from a report to that effect, that there were seven teachers members of the house of delegates. Would it not have been an act of courtesy to have appointed one of them chairman of the committee on education? Or do the teachers know nothing of the very subject on which they are supposed to be well posted? The same speaker must not only have the chairman, but all the members of the judiciary committee lawyers, then why not follow the same rule as to the committee on education? In saying this I do not mean to underrate the ability of the worthy chairman of the committee, but I do know that I could name more than one of the teachers referred to who are his equal in ability, and from their being teachers, ought to know at least as much concerning the wants of our schools and the legislation necessary to meet these wants. While I would not dare to charge that either the speaker or the alleged chairman had any object in view in the matter, that is, the one in seeking and the other in making the appointment, I do say that both took special pains to show their opposition to the American Book Company; in short, they at times acted as though

their mission was to do all they could against it, and if people are caused to think there might be something "behind the scenes," they must not attribute it all to the doings of the "monopoly," but they must know that this is a day in which people think for themselves, and when men are judged by their acts, not entirely by what they say.

The very thought of the state publishing its own books is preposterous. No publishing house in the state could publish the books for the prices the bill calls for, and for the state to erect and equip a house capable of publishing all the books used in our schools, would cost more than would supply the schools with books for ten years or more.

In writing this I have no thought of questioning the motives of others, but to insist that no man, or no set of men has the right to charge corruption on any one, who does not think just as he or they do. This is a free country. Men are doing their own thinking, and the cry of "monopoly" does not frighten the masses as it did a few years ago.

Wheeling, March 2.

THE ARBITRATION BILL.

A Significant Recognition of the Government's Duty.

New York Herald.

The passage of the arbitration bill by the house is a significant recognition of the fact that it is about time for the government to do something for the protection of the people and the public interests against the disastrous consequences of railway strikes.

These strikes are steadily growing more serious in their results and more menacing in their possibilities. That at Chicago last year interfered with business and disturbed the peace of the community more than any previous railway strike in the country, and the recent strike in Brooklyn was even more injurious and threatening to the general public than the western troubles.

In these cases it is a mistake to assume that the railways and their striking employees are the only parties to the controversy, or that their rights and interests are the only or even the main ones to be considered. The chief party is really the public. The people are the greatest sufferers. On them the greatest inconvenience and heaviest losses fall. No more forcible illustration of this fact is needed than is afforded by the recent railway strike in Chicago and the trolley strike in Brooklyn.

No railway or trolley company has any right to paralyze business and inflict widespread damage on the community when these consequences can be avoided, and none should be permitted to do so. Such a corporation has not the rights or independence of a private employer. It is the creature and the servant of the state. It receives from the government valuable privileges and assumes well defined obligations to the people. It is engaged not in a private, but a public, business. Its officers are not, as individual employers are, at liberty to carry on their business as if it were their own. As agents of the people they are employed in the people's business. They must conduct it with due regard to the rights and interests of the public. It is their legal duty to maintain an efficient continuous service, and they fail in that duty when they let traffic become suspended, paralyzed or crippled by a dispute with employees over a mere matter of dollars and cents.

That railway traffic is a public business, subject to governmental control and regulation, is a recognized principle of constitutional law and public policy. The principle has been acted on by every state in the union and by Congress. Laws have been passed limiting freight and passenger rates, requiring the use of safety appliances, forbidding transportation abuses and so on. All this has been done for the benefit of the public. Why should not the government protect the public against the disastrous consequences of railway strikes by reasonable legislation designed to avert such troubles?

The bill passed by the house aims to do this. It is, therefore, a timely and important step in the right direction, but it does not go far enough. It provides for voluntary arbitration—that is, the agreement of both sides to submit their differences to arbitration. When this is done the bill compels both to abide by the decision.

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From Rev. M. B. Wharton, Baltimore, Md.
"It affords me pleasure to add my testimony to the great virtue of Simmons Liver Regulator. I have had experience with it, as occasion demanded, for many years, and regard it as the greatest medicine of the times. So good a medicine deserves universal commendation."

SHOES—ALEXANDER.

We Can Tell a Lie,

Unlike George Washington. However, there exists no need of fabrication in talking about our BROKEN LOT SALE, which ends Saturday, March 9. The values are there so plain that you see them at a glance, and if we have your size you cannot fail to be interested. There's quite a lot of Men's \$5 Patent Leathers at \$2 98, and there's plenty of wide widths in Ladies' Patent Tip Button Boots at \$1 68, that sold for \$2. Then there are small sizes and narrow widths at 98c, that sold for \$1 50 to \$2 25, and at \$1 68 that sold for \$2 50 to \$4.

We'll talk about Spring Styles pretty soon, and we're going to interest you.

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